

THE ANNUAL REPORT

For the year 1940 of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTHTo the DEBWADE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Harleston. July 1941.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Twenty-seventh Annual Report on your Sanitary District.

In accordance with the instructions from the Ministry of Health this is an interim Report pending the issue of a final Report later.

The area of your District is 79,742 acres.
 Resident Population (1940) 17,720.
 Number of inhabited houses, 1931 Census, 5,087
 Number of families and separate occupiers, 1931 Census, 4,920.
 Rateable Value, £40,963.
 Sum represented by ld. rate £193 (approximately).

Births: Legitimate, 120 Males, 107 Females. Total 227
 Illegitimate, 5 Males, 4 Females. Total 9
 Stillbirths, 3 Males, 3 Females. Total 6
 Total Births, 236. Birth rate, 13.31 per 1,000.
 Total Deaths, 263. Death rate, 14.27 per 1,000.
 Stillbirths, rate per 1,000 total births, 25.42.

Percentage of Total Deaths occurring in Public Institutions, 38.40.

Deaths from Puerperal causes: Rate per 1,000 total births.

Puerperal sepsis.....	nil	nil
" causes.....	nil	nil
Total, all causes.....	nil	nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age, / 9 Males, 4 Females.
 Total, 52.84. per 1,000 births.

Deaths from Measles (all ages). 0.
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages). 1.
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years). 1.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

These remain as in the Report of 1938.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Schemes for the provision of piped water supplies to Harleston and Long Stratton were practically completed by the end of the year and in a large proportion of households in the service areas the new supply is being used.

The new bore-wells sunk in certain parishes during 1939 still await the provisions of the necessary filters which are to remove the ferruginous contents from the water.

In all other respects the water supply of the District remains as before.

15 samples of water were forwarded to the Public Analyst, and of these 2 were definitely dangerous and 3 of poor quality.

The new sewerage systems in Harleston and Long Stratton have commenced operation and many pail closets and privies have been converted to the water carriage system. For the duration of the war it is not the Council's policy to enforce such conversions, but it is hoped that as many owners as possible will take advantage of the new service.

Otherwise conditions of drainage, sanitation and public cleansing are as previously reported.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts have been carried out and various nuisances remedied by informal action.

Applications under the emergency legislation for licences to let properties under Statutory Orders to homeless people have entailed a number of visits, both to ascertain what what temporary repairs were necessary and to ensure their execution in a satisfactory manner. In other respects work under the Housing Acts has been reduced.

Supervision of Milk Production has continued and a number of new producers have been entered on the Register. Three new applicants received "Accredited" Milk Licences making a total of 71 producers on the "Accredited" Roll. 161 samples were submitted for the methylene blue test, and 68 "bulk" samples for biological examination for the presence of T.B..

In the middle of May a Government controlled Slaughterhouse was established at Harleston. Regular visits have been made and a total of 2,274 carcasses examined.

One pair of Council Cottages were completed during the year. Plans for these were far advanced at the outbreak of war and the need for them was urgent.

The arrival of considerable numbers of evacuees has been accompanied by a tendency towards overcrowding in particular instances. Such cases have been dealt with informally.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Diphtheria anti-toxin is issued by the County Laboratory, 29, Thorpe Road, Norwich. Supplies are charged to the Medical Practitioners, but the cost is repaid by the District Council if the patient is unable to pay.

No cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever have occurred during the year. 10 swabs were examined for Diphtheria.

No vaccinations were done by the M.O.H.

There has been no serious outbreak of notifiable infectious diseases. Investigations were carried out in respect of 22 cases Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Diphtheria, 8 cases of Pulmonary T.B., 1 case of Cerebro-spinal fever, and 1 case of Typhoid. 22 disinfections were carried out. As far as could be traced none of the above cases was due to the influx of evacuees.

Sixteen cases were removed to Isolation Hospitals.

Once again I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Bowden for his invaluable assistance to me during the year, and also Mr. Burrows for his co-operation.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for the generous support and friendship you have always extended to me during the twenty-seven years I have had the honour of serving you.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

FREDERICK N. H. MAIDMENT,
M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.E.
Medical Officer of Health.